



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

June 17, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Harnessing the power of technology has been integral to helping Maryland continue to move forward – from how we manage government efficiently via our nationally recognized StateStat initiative to how we strengthen education, deliver quality healthcare, and create jobs.

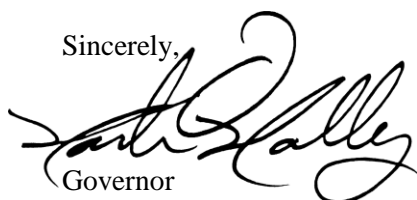
In particular, access to mobile broadband connectivity is more important than ever – from rural and unserved or underserved communities to our public safety first responders who need dedicated spectrum such as can be provided through the D block. If we are to continue our progress as a state and nation, we must find ways to provide more access to faster mobile broadband networks, and I believe that the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA could potentially enable us to achieve that goal.

Maryland is a diverse state with a dynamic economy that is built around its bio-research laboratories, defense/aerospace industry, commercial fishing and agriculture. The Port of Baltimore and related trucking and rail systems facilitate significant trade, and it is critical that we find new ways to continue growing our economy.

We are told that AT&T has experienced an 8,000 percent growth in data traffic over the past four years. The merger would fuse the compatible networks of these two companies and potentially allow them to bring fourth generation, or 4G, Long Term Evolution (LTE) mobile broadband to many more communities in Maryland and across the U.S. Users' appetite – and need -- for more wireless bandwidth will continue to swell, and this merger could be one way to help meet increasing demand. This potential for a successful increase in available services will be higher if the launch of LTE mobile broadband coverage is expedited in areas in the State that are underserved. This is especially important in lower income and rural regions, which are historically last on the list for infrastructure buildouts. Additionally, we are hopeful that all companies in the industry will continue to compete to provide the best terms, services, and prices for consumers.

Approval of the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile can translate to a win for Maryland businesses, consumers and government. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Governor